WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A computer-implemented method of simplifying a network topology display having multiple connections between network nodes, comprising:

displaying a node representing a component in a network, said node having two connections to two other nodes in the network; and

displaying first and second connection paths, each representing one of the two connections with the two other nodes, wherein the first connection path includes first and second orthogonal segments and a curved segment joining the first and second segments in a continuous manner, and wherein the first segment overlaps with a portion of the second connection path.

2.   The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the first segment is a horizontal segment and wherein the second segment is a vertical segment.

3.   The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the horizontal segment of the first connection path overlaps with a portion of a horizontal segment of the second connection path.

4.   The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the vertical segment of the first connection path overlaps with a portion of a vertical segment of the second connection path.

5.   The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the first segment is connected to the displayed node, and wherein the first segment overlaps with a portion of a segment of the second connection path.

6.   The computer-implemented method of claim 5, further comprising displaying a second node representing a second component in the network, wherein the second segment is connected to the second displayed node.

7.   The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein the first connection path further includes a third segment orthogonal to the second segment, and a second curved segment joining the second segment to the third segment in a continuous manner.

1   8.   The computer-implemented method of claim 7, further comprising

2 displaying a second node representing a second component in the network, wherein the third

3 segment is connected to the second displayed node.

1   9.   The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising

2 highlighting the first connection path in response to a user selection of the first connection

3 path.

1   10.   The computer-implemented method of claim 9, wherein the step of

2 highlighting includes increasing the thickness of the first connection path.

1   11.   The computer-implemented method of claim 9, wherein the step of

2 highlighting includes changing the color of the first connection path.

1   12.   The computer-implemented method of claim 9, wherein the user

2 selection is performed by the user using a computer mouse.

1   13.   The computer-implemented method of claim 9, wherein the user

2 selection is performed by the user selecting a first connection associated with the first

3 connection path from a list of network connections.

1   14.   The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the displayed

2 node represents one of a switch group and a host group.

1   15.   The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising

2 highlighting the connection paths for all connections to the displayed node in response to a

3 user indication.

1   16.   The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the step of

2 highlighting includes increasing the thickness of the highlighted connection paths.

1   17.   The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the step of

2 highlighting includes changing the colors of the highlighted connection paths.

1   18.   The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the user

2 indication is input by the user using a computer mouse.

1   19.   The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the user

2   indication includes a selection by the user from a menu of one or more options.

1   20.   The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the network is

2   a storage area network (SAN).

1   21.   A computer-implemented method of simplifying a network topology

2   display having multiple connections between network nodes, comprising:

3   displaying a node representing a component in a network, said node having

4   two connections to two other nodes in the network;

5   displaying first and second connection paths, each representing one of the two

6   connections with the two other nodes, wherein portions of the first and second connection

7   paths overlap; and

8   highlighting the first connection path in response to a user selection of the first

9   connection path.

1   22.   The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein highlighting

2   includes increasing the thickness of the first connection path.

1   23.   The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein highlighting

2   includes changing the color of the first connection path.

1   24.   The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein the user

2   selection is performed by the user using a computer mouse.

1   25.   The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein the user

2   selection is performed by the user selecting a first connection associated with the first

3   connection path from a list of network connections.

1   26.   A computer-implemented method of simplifying a network topology

2   display having multiple connections between network nodes, comprising:

3   displaying a node representing a component in a network, said node having

4   two or more connections to two or more other nodes in the network;

5   displaying two or more connection paths, each representing one of the

6   connections with the other nodes, wherein portions of a first displayed connection path

7   overlaps with a portion of a second displayed connection path; and

8   highlighting the displayed connection paths for all connections to the

9   displayed node in response to a user indication.

1   27.   The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein highlighting

2   includes increasing the thickness of the highlighted connection paths.

1   28.   The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein highlighting

2   includes changing the color of the highlighted connection paths.

1   29.   The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein the user

2   indication is performed by the user using a computer mouse.

1   30.   The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein the user

2   indication includes a selection by the user from a menu of one or more options.

1   31.   A computer-implemented method of simplifying a network topology

2   display having multiple connections between network nodes, comprising:

3   displaying a node representing a component in a network, said node having

4   two connections to two other nodes in the network; and

5   displaying first and second connection paths, each representing one of the two

6   connections with the two other nodes, wherein the first connection path includes first and

7   second orthogonal segments and a distinguishing segment joining the first and second

8   segments in a continuous manner, and wherein the first segment overlaps with a portion of

9   the second connection path.

1   32.   The computer-implemented method of claim 31, wherein the

2   distinguishing segment includes two or more polygonal portions.